PRISON OFFICERS (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 2 March 1883;—*for*,

COPY "of all MEMORIALS addressed by the OFFICERS of any IRISH PRISONS to the IRISH PRISONS BOARD, praying for some increased REMUNERATION for the additional DUTIES imposed on them through the Administration of the PERSON and PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT."

General Prisons Board, Dublin Castle, 14 April 1883.

CHARLES F. BOURKE, Chairman.

(*Mr. Gibson.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 6 *July* 1883.

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— No. 1. —

The Physician to the Female Prison, Limerick, to the Chairman of the General Prisons Board.

68, George-street, Limerick,
21 June 1882.

Sir,

As I find it likely that your Board will submit to the Government the names of some of their officers for reward, in consequence of extra duty, may I respectfully remind your Board of the greatly increased work I have had as Medical Officer to the Female Prison here; this morning I had to inspect 68 prisoners, instead, as it used [to be] formerly, 25. The prison needs daily supervision, and oftentimes twice and thrice, and for all this professional labour I only receive 60 *l.* a year.

I trust you will kindly see your way in getting the Lords of the Treasury to do me simple justice.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert R. Gelston*, M.D.,
Physician H. M. Female Prison,
Limerick.

The Chairman,
Prison Board, Ireland.

— No. 2. —

The Governor of the Prison for Males, Cork, to the Chairman of the General Prisons Board.

H. M. Prison for Males, Cork,
7 October 1882.

Sir,

I UNDERSTAND that it is intended to recognise and reward the services of prison officials, Ireland, for the manner in which they performed their onerous duties when in charge of political prisoners.

I hope you will not consider it presumptuous on my part to draw your attention to, and ask you to consider favourably, the claims of the staff of this prison for services rendered from December 1881 to August 1882, when in charge of about 70 prisoners waiting trial for treason-felony, &c.

During the detention of these men this prison might justly be considered as second to none in its importance. I may add the severity of duty at the time told against my health and that of other officers.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. R. Roberts*, Governor.

The Chairman,
General Prisons Board, Ireland.

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— No. 3. —

The Governor of Richmond Prison to the Chairman of the General Prisons Board.

Sir, Richmond Prison, 10 October 1882.

HAVING learned that the claims of officers of the prisons where suspect prisoners were confined are about being considered by the Board, with a view to granting them special remuneration for extra duty, I beg respectfully to bring under the notice of the Board my claims and those of the other officers of this prison to like consideration on the following grounds:—

That Naas Prison being set apart for suspect prisoners, and this prison, by Order of the Lord Lieutenant, gazetted to receive all prisoners who would otherwise have been committed to Naas from the county Kildare between the 14th December 1881 and the 1st September 1882, amounting in all to 355, were committed to this prison in addition to the ordinary prisoners of the City of Dublin. That 183 prisoners were transferred here from Kilmainham and other places for trial at courts, &c., who might have been detained in that prison only that it also was occupied by suspects. Those changes greatly increased the office work and responsibility of myself and the principal officers of this prison. During the period above referred to 258 prisoners had to be removed from here to other prisons to make room, which involved very much additional office work, and notwithstanding those changes I find there was an increased daily average of 33 prisoners in custody here over the ordinary numbers during that period.

I may add that this prison supplied for those suspect prisons 10 experienced officers during the operation of the Act, whose places had to be filled by untrained officers, which I submit also increased my duties and responsibilities, and those of other officers.

I trust, therefore, the Board will be pleased, for the reasons set forth, to favourably consider the claims of the officers of this prison in like manner with those of the suspect prisons.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Philpott*,
Governor.

The Chairman, General Prisons Board,
Dublin Castle.

— No. 4. —

The Medical Officer of Richmond Prison, to the Chairman of the General Prisons Board.

H. M. Prison, Richmond,
Gentlemen, 10 October 1882.

I DESIRE most respectfully to bring under your notice the increased duty discharged by me from the 14th December 1881 to 30th September 1882, consequent upon some of the other prisons being used for the confinement of suspects exclusively.

During the period referred to 276 convicted prisoners and 79 untried prisoners, all from districts outside the city of Dublin, were imprisoned in the Richmond Bridewell, and under my care and inspection as the medical officer, and were committed from the county Kildare direct without passing through Naas Prison, in which suspects were confined, the officers of which are now, as I am informed, about to receive extra remuneration from you for duty discharged in relation to the confinement of such suspects.

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During the same period there were removed from the Richmond Prison to other prisons 258 prisoners, to make room, and every case of such transfer to, or removal from the Richmond Prison, involved a several special examination and report from me.

I therefore most respectfully submit that I am fairly entitled to participate in any remuneration which may be granted or awarded to officers of prisons, whose duties were increased by reason of the operation of the Act for the confinement of suspected persons, which expired on the 1st September, and I most respectfully request your kind assistance to have me awarded a proportion of such grant, under the circumstances stated.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Joseph Graham Burne,*
Medical Officer, H. M. Prison,
Richmond.

To the General Prisons Board,
Dublin Castle.

— No. 5. —

The Governor of Grangegorman Prison to the Chairman of the General Prisons Board.

H. M. Prison, Grangegorman,
19 October 1882.

Sir,

The officers of this Prison, male and female, have requested me to bring to the notice of the General Prisons Board that they have been required to perform increased duties during the period that the Act for the Better Protection of Person and Property was in force, owing to the setting apart of Kilmainham and Naas Prisons for suspects, in the hope that the Board may be pleased to obtain for them a share of the grant which is likely to be made to prison officers for extra duties performed owing to the operation of this Act.

I beg to state that a great part of the Kilmainham male prisoners were transferred to this prison, and that many of those, or other prisoners, had to be again removed when this prison became crowded, which entailed a good deal of extra work on the male staff generally.

All the female prisoners that would, under ordinary circumstances, be confined in Kilmainham and Naas Prisons, were committed to this prison, many of them brought and taken away at unseasonable hours, and I had to provide for attendance at assizes and sessions for the counties of Kildare, Wicklow, Meath, and Dublin, in addition to the City Commissions and Sessions.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Geo. Sheehan,*
Governor.

The Chairman, General Prisons Board.

— No. 6. —

The Medical Officer of Grangegorman Prison to the Chairman of the General Prisons Board.

H. M. Prison, Grangegorman,
19 October 1882.

Sir,

I beg most respectfully to solicit the attention of the General Prisons Board to the fact that additional duties have devolved upon me as surgeon to this prison owing to the operation of the Peace Preservation Act. A large number of male prisoners were transferred to this gaol from Kilmainham; all the female prisoners from the county Kildare, as well as a number of female prisoners from the county Wicklow, were committed to this prison. All these were medically

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medically inspected on admission, and were under my medical care and treatment while serving their sentences.

Owing to the reception of male prisoners from Kilmainham, prisoners in many instances had to be transferred from Grangegorman to other prisons, and these also I was called upon to inspect individually, and to report as to their fitness for removal.

Under these circumstances I trust you will consider me entitled to receive a share of the grant which I understand is about to be given for distribution among prison officers who performed extra duties in connection with the Act above referred to.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Minchin*, M.B.

The Chairman, General Prisons Board.

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(*Mr Gibson*)

Ordered by, The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 6 *July* 1883.

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